

IN THE CLAIMS

---

1. (currently amended) A helicopter blade assembly for permitting rapid forward flight in a helicopter having separate means for providing a forward impetus, comprising:

substantially vertical mast; and a set of rotatable blades which sweep out the shape of a virtual disk having the properties of a lifting body when they are rapidly rotated by the mast, so that as the 10 virtual disk is pushed translationally horizontally through the air it thereby generates lift.

2. (previously amended) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising means for controlling the camber of 15 the blades, thereby controlling the shape of the virtual disk.

3. (previously amended) The helicopter blade assembly of claim 2, wherein said blades have outward 20 tips and said means for controlling the camber of the blades selectively introduce a downward bending near said outward tips of said blades.

4. (previously amended) The helicopter blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said virtual disk shape 25 swept out has a center and a circular edge and is substantially flat at and near said center and slopes gently downwardly near said circular edge.

---